## Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONECEIVED Washington, DC 20554

FCC 92-486

JAN 2 5/1993

In the Matter of

Petition for Declaratory Ruling Concerning Section 312 (a)(7) of the Communications Act

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MM Docket No. 92-254

We, the undersigned, are residents of the Minnesota-North Dakota area who supported the candidacy of Darold Larson for U.S. Senate in the December 4, 1992 special election in North Dakota.

His campaign aired the truth about abortion, a truth that has been systematically censored by FCC licensees in this area and other parts of the country. Should the FCC rule that the commercials which he presented are not to be shown in future campaigns except during hours when no one is watching, we will have effectively been excluded from the political process in America because we represent an unpopular point of view.

The commercials ran primarily during talk shows and news programs as an examination of the relevant program logs will show. These are shows devoted to discussion of public issues and controversies and suitable for political ads. To exclude the ads from TV during daytime and evening viewing hours because children might see them and be alarmed is to exclude our point of view from the political process.

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What we found most shocking during the campaign was not the content of the pro-life ads but the hardness of heart that would feign horror at the ads but not at the murderous activities that they portray. It is as if excerpts of concentration camp horrors were shown on German TV during World War II and people called up to complain: "Get those pictures of dead Jews off the air; my children are eating dinner!"

Unless abortion America is determined to exclude pro-lifers from equal access to the political process as it has excluded the truth of abortion from TV screens, our ads must be allowed to run. They are not obscene in any true definition of the term, as the FCC has correctly ruled. While licensees may be allowed to make judgments about indecency, this should not grant them a license to exclude photos of dead babies, which are obviously not excrement or sexual material. If the standard of review is that a child might be harmed, much of today's primetime and cable programming would also have to be shunted to the safe harbor, especially if one considers its deforming effect upon the morals of the young.

In truth it is the guilty conscience of adults that is most behind the cry to suppress the truth, not the wondering eyes of children who ask quite simply: "Mommy, who killed the baby?" Parents do not want their own complicity in the slaughter to be known to their children, nor do they want to explain that we live in a society that does to babies what the Nazis did to

Jews. But that is no reason for suppressing a unique appeal to the America electorate for a return to moral sanity. If licensees had been more diligent in allowing the truth of abortion to be shown on TV during the last 20 years, perhaps the entire burden of this responsibility would not have fallen upon the pro-life community, which is now being held up for censorship for showing what the networks will not allow. Are candidates for federal office to be restricted to showing on television only that which FCC licensees have conditioned the public to find acceptable?

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